

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 03728 080715Z
ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS: PFOR YO AU
SUBJ: YUGOSLAV-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS

1. CRITICAL PRESS PLAY ON AUSTRIAN TREATMENT OF YUGOSLAV
MINORITIES HAS PICKED UP LATELY INSPIRED BY MEETINGS OF
SUDETEN GERMANS AND OTHER GROUPS CONSIDERED HOSTILE TO
YUGOSLAVIA IN AUSTRIA AND BY GOA'S PROCLAMATION OF NEW
REGULATIONS ON BILINGUAL SIGNPOSTS.

2. EXAMPLE IS JUNE 3 BORBA COMMENTARY BY VLADO TESLIC WHO
COMPARES THE "HONORABLY INSPIRED" CARINTHIAN SLOVENES
AWAITING TRIAL FOR "HAVING QUESTIONED THE OFFICIAL POLICY
OF DENATIONALIZATION OF MINORITIES" WITH THE FACT THAT
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 03728 080715Z

"ALL TRIALS OF NAZI AND GREATER GERMAN ATTACKERS
OF BILINGUAL INSCRIPTIONS IN CARINTHIA HAVE BEEN
STOPPED". TESLIC THEN NOTES THAT IN MAY IN ADDITION TO
SUDETEN GERMANS THERE ASSEMBLED AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN
AUSTRIA "USTASHIS...AND FORMER 'SS' MEMBERS AS WELL
AS THE ASSEMBLAGE LATER THIS MONTH OF "25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HITLER'S OFFICERS...IN HITLER'S BIRTHPLACE". HE

STATES THAT SUCH MINIFESTATIONS ARE A "SOCIAL EVIL AND NOT A 'SOCIAL BEING' OF AUSTRIA" WHICH FORCES ONE TO QUESTION THE POLITICAL MORALS OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE.

3. AT HIS JUNE 2 BRIEFING FSFA SPOKESMAN KALEZIC RESPONDING TO A QUESTION ON THE GOA'S NEW SIGNPOST REGULATIONS AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SLOVENE AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN PART OF CARINTHIA STATED THAT THE NEW REGULATIONS "IMPERCEPTIBLY REDUCE THE TERRITORY" FOR THE TRUE APPLICATION OF THESE REGULATIONS AND ARE A FURTHER ATTEMPT BY THE GOA TO REVISE RATHER THAN IMPLEMENT THE STATE TREATY.

4. COMMENT: THE SORT OF MEETINGS CITED BY TESLIC (PARA 2) WILL ALWAYS BE READ AS "PROVOCATORY" BY THE GOY AND PROVIDE FURTHER FUEL FOR THE CONTINUING PRESS CAMPAIGN. EVEN WITHOUT SUCH INSPIRATION THE GOY APPEARS CONTENT TO ALLOW THE DISPUTE TO SIMMER ALONG THROUGH ITS CONTROLLED PUBLIC COMMENTS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE GOA IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE MET THE DEMANDS OF THE KEY CARINTHIAN SLOVENE/ BURGENLAND CROATIAN ORGANIZATIONS, AND THEREFORE THE GOY. DEFENSE OF MINORITY RIGHTS IS AN IMPORTANT POLICY PLANK FOR GOY BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY AS ONE WAY OF DEMONSTRATING TO ITS NATIONAL MINORITIES CONCERN FOR THEIR EXISTENCE AND TO HELP HARMONIZE RELATIONS AMONG THE NATIONALITIES WITHIN YUGOSLAVIA. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT THE GOY WILL RAISE THE GENERAL ISSUE OF MINORITIES AT THE CSCE CONFERENCE. ON OTHER HAND AS AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR HERE POINTED OUT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 03728 080715Z

US RECENTLY, AT EARLIER STAGES OF CSCE AUSTRIA ITSELF JOINTED YUGOSLAVIA IN RAISING MINORITY QUESTIONS IN NON-POLEMICAL WAY BUT BOTH WERE ROUNDLY DISCOURAGED FROM PURSUING IT BY OTHERS AS SO MANY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE SENSITIVE MINORITY PROBLEMS THEY WOULD RATHER NOT MULTI-LATERALIZE.

YORK

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